

**Kentucky Environmental Quality
Commission**

Earth Day Awards Ceremony

April 10, 2015

Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Berry Hill Mansion

700 Louisville Road Frankfort, KY



Cumberland Falls

**The Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission
Earth Day Awards Ceremony
April 10, 2015**

EQC is a seven-member citizen advisory board created under state law in 1972. Its mission is to facilitate public dialog on issues, monitor trends and conditions, promote partnerships to improve and protect the environment for future generations. Also, it advises state officials on environmental matters and hosts public awareness, responsibility and positive action toward a healthy environment.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Arnita Gadson, Executive Director

Welcome and Introduction of EQC Commissioners

Stephen A. Coleman, Chairman, Frankfort, KY

Ron Brunty, Vice-Chair, Letcher, KY

Tom Herman, Louisville, KY

Martha Tarrant, Lexington, KY

Benjamin Peterson, Benton, KY

and

**Introduction of Kentucky Energy and Environment
Cabinet Secretary**

Dr. Leonard K. Peters

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Dr. Leonard K. Peters

Halida Hatic

**Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission
Earth Day Speaker 2015**



Halida Hatic is the director of community relations and development for the Center for Interfaith Relation (CIR), a Louisville-based nonprofit working to promote and support interfaith understanding, cooperation, and action. Before joining the CIR staff, Ms. Hatic, a native of Cincinnati, worked for 10 years in the environmental sustainability field, including 6 years at the New England Office of the Environmental Protection Agency. In this capacity, she managed and coordinated regional implementation of EPA's voluntary programs to reduce

emissions from mobile sources. Ms. Hatic served as senior staff and team lead for EPA New England's regional diesel team, and worked directly with colleges and universities, hospitals, and industry partners to implement innovative policies and programs, such as clean construction contract specifications, and transportation demand management to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and emissions of criteria pollutants from the transportation and construction sectors.

Ms. Hatic has also worked at the Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center (KPPC) as a regional coordinator for the Kentucky Energy Efficiency Program for Schools, helping 30 school districts in eastern Kentucky develop and implement district-wide energy management programs. In addition, she coordinated implementation of the Kentucky E3 – Economy, Energy and Environment – Initiative during her time at KPPC and launched a green team at the University of Louisville's Shelby Campus.

In her current role as director of community relations and development for the Center for Interfaith Relations, Ms. Hatic leads efforts to infuse principles of environmental health and sustainability into CIR's daily operations and ongoing programming. Through her leadership, CIR has transitioned to a 100 percent solar-

powered, carbon-free web hosting service; hosted a zero-waste Festival of Faiths in May 2014, collecting and diverting 875 pounds of compostable material and 225 pounds of recycled material from the landfill; adopted a policy of printing publications on 100 percent post-consumer waste, 100 percent recycled, processed chlorine-free paper; and hosted events with 100 percent locally sourced food.

Ms. Hatic holds a Bachelor of Arts in International and Development Economics from the University of New Hampshire and a Master of Arts in Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning from Tufts University. She is a certified Business Energy Professional, Green Specialist, a certified consultant in the Barrett Cultural Transformation Tools, Levels I and II, and a 2014 graduate of the Bioneer's Cultivating Women's Leadership program. Ms. Hatic currently serves as vice chair of the board of the Louisville Sustainability Council and chair of the Green Convene, and has infused her passion and commitment to protecting the health and well-being of all living things into both her personal and professional life.

Presentation of EQC Earth Day Awards

Executive Director Arnita Gadson

Halida Hatic, Presenter

Secretary Len Peters

EQC Commissioners

The Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission
2015
Earth Day Awards

Safelite AutoGlass, Louisville

Safelite AutoGlass, the nation's largest provider of vehicle glass repair and replacement has a large recycling program. Implemented in 2012 it re-purposed both the glass and inner plastic layer of the windshield. The Kentucky locations have recycled 43,227 windshields, saving more than 756 tons of waste. The Kentucky facilities recycled nearly 40 tons of cardboard in 2014. Their sustainability policy is to increase efficiency by reducing solid waste and wasted energy.

Newport Aquarium, Newport

Newport Aquarium tells more than 700,000 visitors annually, the story of water and the role it plays in everyone's life. With 20 to 37 federally endangered species being strictly aquatic, and with 10,553 miles of streams and rivers in Kentucky, 62 percent of which are found to be impaired, they launched an initiative to tell the story through four themes "Water Story", Conservation, Species Survival Plan and the Vanishing Plan. They developed a compelling conversation about water using exhibits and the media.

Berea College Student EcoChallenge Team, Berea

A diverse group of 11 volunteer students, the **Berea College Student EcoChallenge Team**, in 2014 produced the first Carbon Neutral Green Basketball in Kentucky. Its purpose is to educate and call attention to the importance of reducing and offsetting carbon emissions. By involving various organizations on campus the goal was to increase awareness with those who would normally not be involved in such an effort. Berea College placed first in the National Recyclemania (to increase recycling) and Campus Conservation Nationals (to reduce energy consumption)

Deborah Payne, Berea

Because of her work in environmental health, and her degrees in public health and biology, serving as project director of the Health Impact Assessment of Shawnee Fossil Plant, **Deborah Payne's** goal was to increase community dialogue around health as it connects to both the environment and the local economy, as the Tennessee Valley Authority makes decisions for potential plant retrofits or retirement of the Shawnee Fossil Plant. Her success was measured by the level of increased stakeholder involvement through open dialogue and literature review.

Eddie Atherton, Owensboro

During his 24 years of service in the city of Owensboro, **Eddie Atherton** has been involved with the beautification of the original Smothers Park in the early 80's and currently the riverfront revitalization. To ensure that the distinguished "Tree City USA" designation is upheld, he plants hundreds of trees in the city parks and on other city properties. Other projects include the Greenbelt, Frederica Street Island Improvements and various other city medians and rights of way. He has proven to be an effective manager of the grounds of Owensboro. The curb appeal is self-evident.

Banklick Watershed Council Inc., Covington

The **Banklick Watershed Council Inc.** is made of volunteers whose mission is to restore, protect and promote Banklick Creek and its watershed. There are 12 different local jurisdictions within the boundary of the Banklick Watershed. Ground projects were implemented, land acquisition was achieved, septic system repair and the detention basin retrofit was completed, all in partnership with Planning and Development Services of Kenton County, and the Northern Kentucky Health Department and Sanitation District No.1.

Cayley Crum, Louisville

As a Cadet Level Girl Scout, **Cayley Crum** at 15, decided to start a project called ReTree Shively, officially founded in February 2013. A goal of the project was to plant and tag 115 trees including 32 different native tree species on Arbor Day. Working closely with her mother, they developed relationships with Shively's businesses, organizations, residents and city agencies, raising over \$10,000 to pay for the 115 trees. Since natural hazards and a lack of planting have taken its toll during Shively's 75 years as a city, Cayley's overall goals are to help decrease Shively's heat index, improving air quality, and to beautify the parks.

Elizabeth Schmitz, Frankfort

The impact of **Elizabeth Schmitz's** energy and environmental education installation at the Capitol Education Center developed under the direction of First Lady Jane Beshear reaches over 20,000 by raising awareness of how personal actions effect the environment. The Capitol Education Center is dedicated to environmental sustainability and civic engagement. The center hosts over 60,000 students and adults annually. In 2002 Elizabeth spearheaded Bowling Green's first producer only farmers market. She sponsors a community supported Ag pickup at her home.

Public Service Award
Floyd County Conservation District

The **Floyd County Conservation District's** goal is to help the community gain a better understanding of our natural resources. It is a wholistic education program for residents of Floyd County, offering workshops on fruit trees, hay, and pasture maintenance and development, along with others. The District provides a work based learning location for the Carl D. Perkins Job Corp Center, where participants are able to gain a better understanding of environmental/agricultural issues. Kindergarteners learn about conservation through Art and Writing Contest.

Lifetime Achievement Award
Joyce Bender, Frankfort

Joyce Bender is the first and only manager of the Kentucky State Nature Preserves. Since 1986 the state nature preserves system has expanded to 63 preserves, encompassing 27,663 acres from 16 preserves and 5,703 acres. Due to budget cuts, the needed maintenance is waning with a staff reduced to two, one being Joyce. Her coordinated efforts, partnership development, along with volunteers and local officials, have minimized damage in the wake of dumping, timber theft, off-road vehicles and illegal marijuana growing operations.

Congratulations to all our winners.

Closing Remarks

Arnita Gadson, Executive Director

Pictures and reception immediately following the program.

EQC wishes to thank Horace Brown of Shelbyville, Kentucky for providing the cardinal portrait for our Public Service Award winner each year. Mr. Brown is a former chair of the Commission and a devoted friend to the agency since its inception in 1972.

EQC is celebrating its 43rd year of service to Kentucky.



Moment of Reflection

In the line at the store, the cashier told an older woman that plastic bags weren't good for the environment. The woman apologized and explained "We didn't have the green thing back in my day."

That's right, they didn't have the green thing in her day. Back then, they returned milk bottles, coke bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed, sterilized and refilled, using the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled. But they didn't have the green thing back in her day.

In her day, they walked upstairs because they didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. They walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time they had to go two blocks. But she's right. They didn't have the green thing in her day.

Back then, they washed baby diapers because they didn't have the throw-away kind. They dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts — wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that old lady is right, they didn't have the green thing back in her day.

Back then, they had one TV or radio in the house — not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a pizza dish, not a screen the size of the

state of Montana. In the kitchen, they blended and stirred by hand because they didn't have electric machines to do everything for you. When they packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, they used wadded up newspaper to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, they didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn, they used a push mower that ran on human power. They exercised by working so they didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right, they didn't have the green thing back then.

They drank from a fountain when they were thirsty, instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time they had a drink of water. They refilled pens with ink, instead of buying a new pen and they replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But they didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar and kids rode their bikes to school or rode the school bus, instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. They had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And they didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

But that lady is right. They didn't have the green thing back in her day.

Nominations for 2016 Earth Day Awards recognizing environmental stewardship

The annual awards are presented to individuals and institutions who have demonstrated deep concern, activism and achievement to improve the environment. Citizens and organizations statewide are encouraged to submit names of champions of clean air, clean water, pollution control and other elements vital to healthy ecosystems. Honors will be bestowed in celebration of Earth Day in April 2016.

Nomination forms for EQC's Earth Day Awards can be found on the web at <http://eqc.ky.gov> or by calling Sujatha Santhanam at 502-564-2674 or e-mailing Sujatha.Santhanam@ky.gov.

Nomination forms can be sent electronically or by mail to:

Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission
Energy and Environment Cabinet
500 Mero St.
12th floor, Capital Plaza Tower
Frankfort, KY 40601